

# Summit Place additions

ANDERSON

## Senior facility to add independent-living residences

BY HEIDI CENAC

Anderson Independent-Mail

Anderson area seniors could have a new option for independent living by the end of the year.

Summit Place of Anderson broke ground Tuesday on Summit Court, a 2.5-acre expansion that will include 16 independent-living units. The rental cottages, which range in price from \$2,100 to \$2,800 per month, will be located behind the existing assisted-living facility on Perpetual Square Drive off S.C. 81.

John Elliston, executive director of Summit Place, said site work began about a month ago, and the duplexes should be complete in December.

"We're really thrilled about what's going on," Mr. Elliston said.

The units were designed with seniors' requests in mind, he said.

The single-level duplexes have oversized garages for large cars and extra storage.

The kitchens are fully equipped and bathrooms have wide doors and safety features.

The rent covers residents' utilities, cable, a weekly 30-minute housecleaning session, a call system to the assisted-living facility's staff and one hot meal per resident delivered to the door each day, he said.

All 16 units are expected to be booked before they are complete. Mr. Elliston said he received 25 inquiries before noon the day a test ad ran in the *Anderson Independent-Mail*, and two of the units have already been taken.

"That was a real strong indicator to us that the demand is there," he said.

Betty Hinson, 79, one of Summit Place's residents, was the first person to put a deposit on a Summit Court home. She said she loves Summit Place's Bingo games and workers, but can't

about the little houses being built," she said. "I know I'll be happy there."

**BETTY HINSON**

Summit Place resident

wait to cook her own meals and sleep as late as she wants.

At Summit Court, Ms. Hinson will have the best of both worlds.

"I'm just so thrilled about the little houses being built," she said.

"I know I'll be happy there."

If there's an opportunity to develop more independent-living facilities in the future, Summit Place isn't ruling out the possibility, Mr. Elliston said. It would just need more land.

Anderson's population is aging, and South Carolina is attracting more retirees each year.

As a result, one conclusion in Anderson County's 20-year Com-

prehensive Plan is that the county needs to examine housing needs for the 65-and-older population.

By 2030, the state's 65-and-older population will be nearly double what it was in 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

That means South Carolina should have about 1.1 million residents who are 65 and older in 2030, compared with 485,333 people in 2000.

As Summit Court residents age, they would be able to move to the assisted-living facility if needed.

The proximity to Summit Place also makes Summit Court a good fit for couples where one spouse needs more care than the other, Mr. Elliston said.

"To be able to walk across and see them and talk to them is important," he said.

"I'm just so thrilled

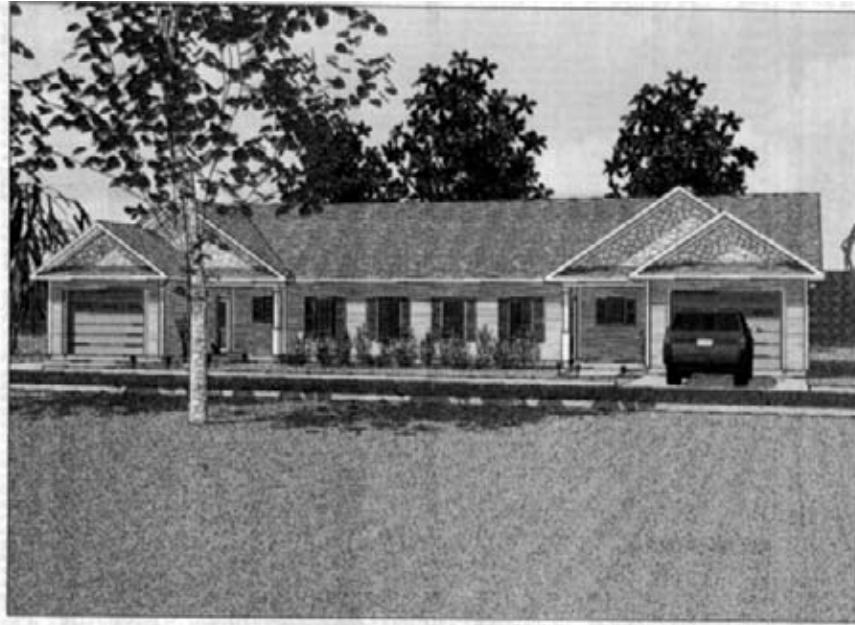
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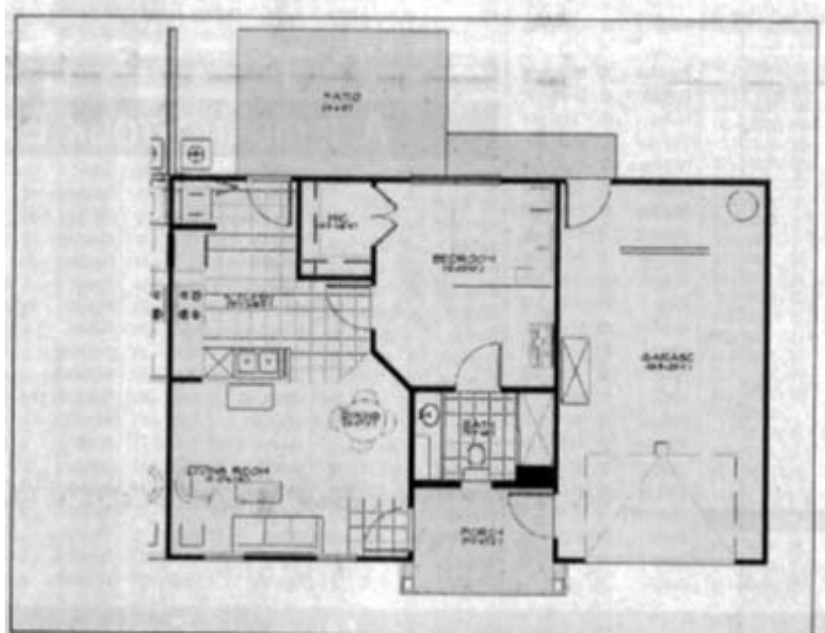


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The proposed outside of a Summit Place living unit is shown.



A planned one-bedroom unit at Summit Place.